

MEDITATION 2

Mark 1: 2-3

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make God's paths straight.’ ”

Last meditation we focussed on verse 1: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

This week, we continue with a prophecy from Isaiah, which the gospel writer uses as preparation to introducing John the Baptist. "I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will **"prepare your way"**.

Have you ever had to prepare for something?

Maybe it was an exam or job interview... Maybe a meeting... Maybe an appointment... Maybe a surgery... Maybe a date... Maybe a difficult encounter or conversation... Maybe having to face a difficult situation and your role in it and how you could find a good way through and beyond it?

What have you or what may you need to prepare your way for now? How will you prepare?

"The voice of one **crying out** in the **wilderness**"

To cry out suggests urgency, possibly alarm arising out of real fear and trepidation. Have you ever cried out about something? Maybe it was in anger... maybe in fear... maybe with tears and weeping accompanying the crying out?... Or was it relief at something amazing having come to be you were afraid could not be? - Positive test results... finishing a race... Seeing someone after a long time... escaping something dangerous that seemed inevitable...

But crying out **in the wilderness**? The wilderness is an arid wasteland... It's hard to find your way... It's difficult to know where to go... Time, place, direction are lost... How will you make it through?... Will your crying out even be heard?... Will there be a response?... Will you even be seen or will you simply be ignored, bypassed or dismissed?...

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight".

The prophet's crying out in the wilderness is not aimless wandering like the people felt for 40 years when their great leader Moses tried to lead them. Now, they are making their way back home after years in exile in foreign land under harsh conditions. They are preparing to go back home, even as the journey must be a long one through a wilderness.

What does home look like and feel like for you?... What do you long for that would be home?... Or are you still in the wilderness trying to figure that out what home is at this time of your life?... Is what you thought was home no longer feel like home?...

Finally, though, the preparation the people must make to get home is not just a long journey through the wilderness. It is also about "**making God's path's straight**"...

Clarity, honesty, confession, developing a clear conscience...

In order for God to come, in order to meet God, the way has to be clear, the path has to be straight, and the heart has to be open...

Is your heart open and clear?... What must happen for that to be?...

Are you prepared for the coming of God in the most remarkable way at this very moment and time of your life?... This is the question at the opening of the gospel and the prophecy that anticipates it.

PRAYER: Dear God... Meet me in this time of my life...

- Help me prepare the way for you to come, above me, beside me, within me...
- Give me clarity in my confusion...
- Give me trust in your providence in the face of my uncertainty...
- Give me courage if my heart is divided between what is right to do versus what I'm afraid to do...
- Listen to my cry and shine your light for me in the darkness of my wilderness wandering...
- Arouse me out of my complacency and awaken me beyond my comfort...
- Make my path straight as I look ahead, as I try to make greater peace with the past, and as I seek to live fully present in this now time...

In Jesus' name... Amen.